

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS

MAR 29 2013

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS
JONESBORO DIVISION

By: JAMES W. McCORMACK, CLERK
Susie
DEP CLERK

Jack Flynn,

Plaintiff,

v.

Frontline Asset Strategies, LLC; and DOES 1-
10, inclusive,

Defendants.

: Civil Action No.: 3:13 cv 89 BRW: **COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR**: **JURY TRIAL**: This case assigned to District Judge Wilson
and to Magistrate Judge Kearney**COMPLAINT**

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Jack Flynn, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. This action arises out of Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), Arkansas Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, A.C.A. § 17-24-501, et seq. ("AFDCPA"), and the invasions of Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendant and its agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.

2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

4. The Plaintiff, Jack Flynn ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3) and A.C.A. § 17-24-502(2).

5. Defendant Frontline Asset Strategies, LLC ("Frontline"), is a Minnesota business entity with an address of 1935 West County Road B2, Suite 425, Roseville, Minnesota 55113, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6), A.C.A. § 17-24-502(5)(A).

6. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by Frontline and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.

7. Frontline at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

8. A person other than Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to an original creditor (the "Creditor").

9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5) and A.C.A. § 17-24-502(4).

10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Frontline for collection, or Frontline was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.

11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2) and A.C.A. § 17-24-502(1).

B. Frontline Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

12. Beginning on or around January 2013, the Defendants began to contact the Plaintiff in an attempt to collect the Debt.

13. At all times referenced herein, Defendants placed calls to Plaintiff's residential telephone by using an automated telephone dialer system ("ATDS") and/or by using an artificial or prerecorded voice.

14. When Plaintiff answered the ATDS calls from Defendants, he heard a prerecorded message which indicated that Defendants were attempting to reach a debtor other than Plaintiff.

15. On numerous occasions, Plaintiff pressed a button to "opt out" of Defendants' ATDS calls.

16. Additionally, on February 27, 2013, Plaintiff spoke to a live representative of Defendants named "Sam" to inform them that they were calling the wrong telephone number, and requested that Defendants cease their ATDS calls to Plaintiff.

17. Sam responded by insisting that Plaintiff was indeed the debtor whom Defendants were looking for.

18. Despite all of the above, Defendants continued to place ATDS calls to Plaintiff's residential telephone number.

C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

19. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.

20. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

COUNT I

VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT –
15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

21. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
22. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendants engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.
23. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5) in that Defendants caused a phone to ring repeatedly and engaged the Plaintiff in telephone conversations, with the intent to annoy and harass.
24. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendants employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.
25. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
26. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

COUNT II

VIOLATIONS OF THE ARKANSAS FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT –
A.C.A. § 17-24-501, et seq.

27. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
28. The Defendants' conduct violated A.C.A. § 17-24-505(a) in that Defendants engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.

29. The Defendants' conduct violated A.C.A. § 17-24-505(b)(5) in that Defendants caused a phone to ring repeatedly and engaged the Plaintiff in telephone conversations, with the intent to annoy and harass.

30. The Defendants' conduct violated A.C.A. § 17-24-507(a) in that Defendants used unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.

31. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the AFDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.

32. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

COUNT III
VIOLATIONS OF THE ARKANSAS DECEPATIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT –
A.C.A. § 4-88-101, et seq.

33. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

34. The Defendants' actions constitute unfair or deceptive trade practices within the meaning of the Arkansas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, as defined by A.C.A. § 4-88-101 *et seq.*

35. As the result of Defendants' violations, the Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief and to recover actual damages and reasonable attorney's fees and costs.

COUNT IV
INVASION OF PRIVACY BY INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION

36. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

37. The Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652B defines intrusion upon seclusion as, "One who intentionally intrudes...upon the solitude or seclusion of another, or his private affairs or concerns, is subject to liability to the other for invasion of privacy, if the intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person."

38. Arkansas further recognizes the Plaintiff's right to be free from invasions of privacy, thus the Defendants violated Arkansas state law.

39. The Defendants intentionally intruded upon Plaintiff's right to privacy by continually harassing the Plaintiff with ATDS calls to his residential telephone.

40. The telephone calls made by the Defendants to the Plaintiffs were so persistent and repeated with such frequency as to be considered, "hounding the plaintiff," and, "a substantial burden to her existence," thus satisfying the Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652B requirement for an invasion of privacy.

41. The conduct of the Defendants in engaging in the illegal collection activities resulted in multiple invasions of privacy in such a way as would be considered highly offensive to a reasonable person.

42. As a result of the intrusions and invasions, the Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial from the Defendants.

43. All acts of the Defendants and its agents were committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, the Defendants is subject to punitive damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against the Defendants:

1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) and A.C.A. § 17-24-512(a)(1) against the Defendants;
2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A) and A.C.A. § 17-24-512(a)(2)(A) against the Defendants;
3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) and A.C.A. § 17-24-512(3);

4. Actual damages pursuant to A.C.A. 4-88-113(f) against the Defendants;
5. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to A.C.A. 4-88-113(f) against the Defendants;
6. Actual damages from the Defendants for all damages including emotional distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent FDCPA violations and intentional and/or reckless invasions of privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for the Plaintiff;
7. Punitive damages; and
8. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: March 20, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

Sergei Lemberg, Esq.

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